15. Shri Mahendra Jain, PS to PM

16. Dr. Rajiv Agarwal, Alternate Physician to PM

17. Dr. N.K. Gupta, Physician

As regards the expenditure incurred on the visit of the delegation the details of expenditure are to be obtained from a number of agencies. This information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Repatriation of Indian Workers from UAE

*145. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether UAE had set September 30, 1996 as deadline for the repatriation of Indian workers living in that country illegally;

(b) the circumstances in which these workers had gone there and the purpose thereof;

(c) the reasons for sending back these Indians and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government had agreed to airlift 60,000 Indians out of UAE and appealed to UAE for the extension of deadline;

(e) the number of Indians returned to India and the number of them stranded there even after the deadline;

(f) the steps being taken for the early repatriation of stranded Indians;

(g) the expenditure incurred by the Government to repatriate them;

(h) the steps being to rehabilitate them and the nature of assistance given to State Governments in this regards; and

(i) the measures proposed to ensure safety of Indian workers in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (i). The three-month amnesty announced by the Government of UAE for the departure of all illegal immigrants in that country, including illegal Indian workers was to end on September 30, 1996 which was extended for another one month upto October 31, 1996.

Available information indicates that some of the illegal workers had gone to UAE on a tourist visa or a transit visa but continued their stay even after expiry of their visas, while some others were misguided by their own relatives and friends whom they had gone to see and chose to stay on to work illegally and others entered the country by launches without proper documents. The purpose of all these illegal immigrants was to seek employment.

Under the UAE law, all illegal immigrants are liable to prosecution and deportation. The illegal immigrants availed of the amnesty under which prosecution is waived by the UAE Government. Government of India have undertaken to facilities the repatriation of the illegal workers by providing travel documents where required and arranging transport requirements.

Government had no proposal to airlift 60,000 Indians out of UAE, but facilitated orderly and humane return of the illegal Indian workers to India. Towards this end, the Government of UAE was requested to extend the deadline.

An estimated 60,000 illegal Indian immigrants returned to India during the amnesty. Some Indian nationals coming under the purview of the amnesty, were stranded as they failed to leave the country within the extended period of the amnesty. Our mission in UAE facilitated the departure of all such stranded persons who came to the notice of the mission by obtaining a special dispensation from the UAE Government and also assisting them in obtaining air tickets.

The Government of India did not incur any expenditure directly for the repatriation. However Air India and Indian Airlines, operating from UAE to various destinations in India, reduced the air fare considerably for the amnesty-seekers. Further, Air India carried 186 stranded persons to India, free of charge.

Our mission in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General in Dubai are closely monitoring the emerging employment opportunities in UAE with a view to facilitate the return of the expatriated Indians to UAE in a legitimate manner. No Central assistance was given or proposed to be given to the State Governments concerned for the rehabilitation of these expatriate Indians from the UAE.

The Emigration Act of 1983, rules framed thereunder and instructions issued from time to time by Ministry of Labour contain provisions to ensure orderly recruitment and employment of Indians abroad and punishment of unscrupulous recruiting agents. Unskilled category of workers are issued emigration clearance only after producing employment agreement with reasonable safeguards, demand letter and power of attorney duly attested by concerned Indian mission in the country of employment. Offences under the emigration Act, 1983 have been made cognizable and imprisonment and fine have been prescribed.

The Indian missions and posts in the Gulf countries intercede whenever Indian workers face difficulties with their employers. In particular, the missions assist Indian workers in realising their dues from the employer, in ensuring reasonably good living and working conditions and ensuring that workers are not subjected to ill-treatment. Whenever complaints are received from Indian workers, the matter is first taken up with the employer directly for an amicable settlement. In case, the employer is unreasonable, the intervention of local authorities including the Labour Ministry is sought. If

this recourse does not bring about the desired results, the matter is taken to the labour court. The missions remain in touch with the concerned authorities and the workers with a view to ensure that justice is done in the matter. The missions also undertake visit to labour camps to ascertain the welfare of Indian workers and also maintain frequent contacts with the Indian community.

[Translation]

Expulsion of Diplomats

*146. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign diplomats/staff of foreign diplomatic missions, who were ordered to leave the country during each of the last three years along with main reasons, country-wise;

(b) the details of Indian diplomats/staff of Indian missions abroad, who were ordered to leave the country during the above period alongwith the reasons, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any enquiry to find out whether these countries had taken prejudicial decisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(e) whether the Government had communicated its reaction in this regard to the concerned Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of these countries thereto, country-wise;

(g) whether the Government have raised/propose to raise the matter at international level; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the other steps being considered in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) During the last three years, we have been constrained to declare the following six Pakistani diplomats/officials and one Bangladeshi official based in India persona-non-grata for indulging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic/official status :

(i) Nasir Uddin Ahmed, First Secretary, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (12/7/1994)

(ii) Mohd. Afzal Bajwa, staff member, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (12/7/1994)

(iii) Javid Ahmad, First Secretary, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (30/8/1994)

(iv) Shahpal Khan, staff member, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (25/12/1994)

(v) Noor Muhammad Matto, staff member, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (30/9/1996)

(vi) Hafiz Mushtaq Ahmed Khoso, staff member, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi (26/10/1996)

In November 1994, Bangladesh High Commission was asked to withdraw Mr. Mohammad Asabuddin Akond, Chauffer, for violation of Customs Rules.

(b) to (d). The Government of Pakistan has, during the same period, declared following six Indian diplomats/officials based in Pakistan as persona-non-grata, under the false allegations that they were indulging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic/official status :

(i) V.S. Chauhan, Attache, HCI Islamabad (12/7/1994)

(ii) E.A. Adams, staff member, CGI Karachi (13/7/1994)

(iii) J.J. Singh, Consul, CGI Karachi (30/8/1994)

(iv) Deepak Thakur, staff member, HCI Islamabad (26/12/1994)

(v) A.C. Sinha, staff member, HCI Islamabad (1/10/1996)

(vi) A.K. Wahi, staff member, HCI Islamabad (26/10/1996)

(e) and (f). The Government has, in all cases of expulsion of our personnel from Pakistan, categorically rejected the Pakistani allegations. The Government have conveyed to Pakistan that its actions in this regard are totally unacceptable, and that the use of violence by Pak intelligence operatives against Indian Mission personnel based in Pakistan is a matter of deep regret and serious concern.

2. The Government have demanded that Pakistan take all necessary steps for the safety and security of our personnel in Pakistan. Regrettably, it appears that the Pakistani authorities are not taking effective measures to control the intimidating and criminal activities of their intelligence against our personnel.

(g) and (h). No, Sir. The India-Pakistan Code of Conduct for the Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel, 1992 provides an instrument to address these concerns and we are scrupulously adhering to its stipulations. We have informed Pakistan that recurrence of such incidents can not but negatively impact on India Pakistan relations.

[English]

Performance of Sportsmen

*147. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for Indian sportsmen and women not achieving expected level in comparison with